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Chicago Chapter

Domestic Violence Legal

Equip For Equality

Evanston Community

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Health & Disability First Defense Legal Aid

Illinois Legal Aid Online

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Midwest Center on Law and

National Immigrant Justice

Public Interest Law Initiative

Roger Baldwin Foundation of

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Uptown People's Law Center

World Relief - Chicago

Invest in Justice Today.

100% of your contribution will go attorneys who have dedicated their critical legal assistance- the legal aid careers to serving them. most vulnerable Chicagoans receive in our struggle to ensure that the toward supporting the greatest asset

Supreme Court's Pro Bono Reporting All contributions count for the Illinois Rule and are tax-deductible.

aid system through grants, advocacy and other support, and all Chicagoans. The CBF builds the capacity of our pro bono and legal Chicago Bar Association, works to ensure equal access to justice for The Chicago Bar Foundation (CBF), the charitable arm of The more than 100 law firms and corporations and thousands of justice. The CBF's work is made possible by the generous support of aggressively works to eliminate systemic barriers to equal access to individual donors.



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2007 Investing in





The justice system is in crisis. *

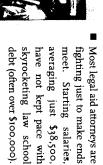
nearly impossible for dedicated financial barriers are making it residents living in poverty. than 750,000 Cook County aid attorneys devoting their only about 250 civil legal in Cook County, there are lawyers actively practicing Out of more than 42,000 more legal aid Despite the glaring need for careers to serving the more careers. lawyers to pursue these lawyers,

■ Almost half of all Illinois legal aid attorneys plan to leave their jobs in the next three years, primarily due to inadequate compensation.



"I feel fortunate because every day I use my skills to help kids tap into their knowledge and dernand the power to fight their way out of a terrifying array of bad situations."

Sarah Biehl
Staff Attorney, Legal Assistance Foundation
of Metropolitan Chicago



The median legal aid salary of \$48,500 is almost 40% lower than comparable government salaries in Cook County, and in some cases less than the annual bonus that associates in large law firms receive.

no voice in our justice system."

helping those who would otherwise have

Peter Ashmore

Chicago Volunteer Legal Services

Director of Financial Issues,

"I knew that I could do nothing more important than devote my legal career to

*The recently released study, Investing in Justice: A Framework for Effective Recruitment and Retention of Illinois Legal Aid Attorneys is available at www.chicagobarfoundation.org.

A Call to Action for Chicago's legal community.



"We are going to lose extremely talented attorneys who are dedicated to legal aid unless we do something about this crisis. It's time for us to take ownership of this problem."

Anton R. Valukas 2007 Investing in Justice Campaign Chair Partner, Jenner & Block

Legal aid attorneys form the backbone of the more than 40 legal aid and public interest law organizations serving vulnerable Chicagoans. The focus of this first Annual CBF Investing in Justice Campaign is to give our community's pro bono and legal aid organizations the means to increase salaries to levels that will enable their attorneys to continue to provide these critical services.

As little as a \$10,000-\$15,000 increase in compensation would be enough to allow most legal aid attorneys to remain in their positions. The Campaign is an opportunity for lawyers to take ownership of this problem.



"I believe that no one should be deprived of life's greatest goods—family, home, job, education, health care—because they can't afford a lawyer."

Daniel Lindsey
Supervisory Attorney
Legal Assistance Foundation of
Metropolitan Chicago

Investing in Justice

Our community suffers when lawyers are unable to pursue careers in legal aid. Civil legal aid organizations as a safety net, helping protect families experiend domestic violence, children custody dismutes and eld



"Having been homeless myself and now having the opportunity to work in legal aid to help homeless youths makes me realize that maybe I was homeless for a reason."

Zenaida Alonzo

Youth Futures Attorney, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

Investing in legal aid attorneys is an investment in justice.

- Without adequate legal aid resources, we end up with a two-tiered system of justice, with those who cannot afford representation shut out of the process.
- In addition to providing critical assistance to the most vulnerable members of our community, legal aid programs provide the infrastructure to support the probono work of law firms, lawyers and corporations.

- Civil legal aid organizations act as a safety net, helping to protect families experiencing domestic violence, children in custody disputes and elderly victims of consumer fraud. If legal aid organizations cannot recruit and retain talented staff, this safety net will fall apart.
- Losing just 10% of the experienced legal aid attorney workforce in one year can result in almost 10,000 fewer Chicagoans being served.



"I am continually inspired by my clients and the hardships they overcome to pursue a better life for themselves and their children."

Sherizaan Minwalla Supervising Attorney, National Immigrant Justice Center